APPENDIX E.

READ—

Letter from the Superintendent, Mysore Revenue Survey, To the Secretary to the Dewan to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, No. 305, dated Palya, 6th May 1881.

No. 4461-9—123, DATED BANGALORE, 29TH AUGUST 1881.

ORDER THEREON.—In the above letter the Survey Superintendent reports on certain points discussed in paras 7, 8 and 11 of the Proceedings dated the 29th March last and after a further personal discussion of the subject with him the following instructions are issued :—

2. First, with regard to the inconveniently large size of fields, the Superintendent points out that by the new Rules of 1879, the minimum size of fields having been considerably reduced, no inconvenience is likely to be felt in the Taluks surveyed subsequent to the date of the above rules. Under these rules, 6 acres of dry land and 2 acres of rice land being considered the regulation size of a survey number, fields of less area are alone clubbed together provided their total area does not exceed the above limits. But a field from 6 to 15 acres in extent of dry lands or 2 to 5 acres in wet is demarcated as one number, if held by a single pattadar, apparently without reference to his wishes. The Dewan is however of opinion that in these cases the holders of the lands should at the time of the survey be allowed the option of getting such fields sub-divided into two numbers and that the measuring officers should consult and attend to their wishes in the matter. The comparatively poor condition of the raiyats in the Province and the uncertainty of the seasons which often do not permit the raiyats to cultivate more than a limited extent of land in the year, render it undesirable that they should be saddled with larger fields than they can ordinarily cultivate and pay for.

3. With regard to the Taluks already settled the Dewan approves of the Survey Superintendent's proposal to call upon the Deputy Commissioners to get the Village Shanbhogs to prepare a list of the larger fields which the pattadars would wish to get sub-divided ; that these lists should be examined by them or their Assistants at the time of jamabandi item by item after enquiry of the individual pattadars and made over to the Survey Department to carry the sub-division into effect, and that the fields so sub-divided should be subject to a re-classification where found necessary. The sub-division should be carried out at once for all and no applications for the same will be afterwards entertained. It should, as proposed by the Survey Superintendent, extend also to unoccupied arable lands which are likely to be brought under cultivation sooner or later. But it is not deemed expedient that the raiyats should be deterred from coming forward with their applications by being called upon to bear the cost of such sub-division and re-classification. The cost will be properly borne by the Government itself. The labor and cost of erecting fresh boundary marks will act as sufficient deterrent against needless applications on the subject.

4. The Dewan is further of opinion that the sub-division should not be limited to fields of 15 acres and upwards in dry lands and 5 acres and more in wet or garden, but that as above laid down in regard to future surveys, holders of fields of more than the minimum area of 6 acres in dry and of 2 acres in wet should be allowed an option of getting them sub-divided. It is the poorer holders of this smaller fields whose convenience has chiefly to be consulted, and it is important that in undertaking the labor and cost of the sub division, it should be carried into effect once for all in a manner agreeable to the wishes of the people, so as to avoid the necessity for any operations of the kind again hereafter. It may perhaps be advisable to take one District in the present year and see in what manner the measure works.

5. It must be noted that the existing rules in regard to the sub-division of lands under the decrees of the Civil Courts under Section 17 of Act No. IV of 1868, fix much lower minimum areas below which such sub-divisions are not allowable. The minimum area of fields fixed by these rules are—

Dry crop land	..	..	3 acres.
Rice land ..	..	..	20 guntas.
Garden land	..	..	10 do

6. With regard to the question of partial remission of the assessment on wet lands laid waste from want of water, the Dewan observes that the necessity for such indulgence arises from the fact that though the survey assessment is based as regards water-supply upon a fair average of a number of years, it is not possible as a matter of fact for raiyats in ordinary circumstances to pay the comparatively high rates of assessment on the wet land which they are obliged to leave waste, and the refusal to show them a reasonable consideration in such cases leads to their getting these remissions in the more objectionable form of irrecoverable balances, or sometimes to the objectionable system of their throwing up lands at the beginning of the year, and again taking them up when the prospects of rain and water-supply become assured. This opens a door to collusion and fraud on the part of the Shanbhogs, and it is of great importance to encourage the raiyats to retain their lands without such needless relinquishments and re-occupations of lands. The proposal therefore to levy only a half assessment on wet lands laid waste while showing reasonable consideration where needed, will be uniform in its action, and will not be open to the objections which exist in regard to remissions generally. The levy of the half assessment will act as a sufficient deterrent against land being needlessly laid waste.

7. The following Rules therefore are provisionally sanctioned on the subject:—

I. Entire fields of wet lands or other lands irrigated from Government works laid waste will be allowed a remission of half their assessment.

II. The above rule is not to apply to lands irrigated from river channels or other perennial and abundant means of irrigation, in which case the remission will only be allowed if the source of irrigation has breached or is otherwise not available for irrigation.

III. The above remission is not claimable as a right, and where occupant of the land is found to keep the land waste for more than one year, from mere neglect and not from any want of water, or with the view of using it for pasture and other purposes, the remission will not be allowed.

8. It will be seen that where the irrigation is not of a permanent kind no enquiry is required in regard to the insufficiency of the water, or the cause of the land being laid waste in the first year. The object is to protect the raiyats from any annoyance by such enquiry and even where the lands are waste through mere neglect the Government will have the advantage of using the water to other lands, whilst the half assessment, as already observed, will be a deterrent against any wilful neglect on the part of the raiyats.

9. Any difficulty need be apprehended only where the fields, whether in surveyed or unsurveyed taluks, are large, and the raiyats are induced to throw the whole field waste even when they are able to cultivate a portion, in view to secure the remission. But this difficulty would to a great extent be removed under the measures adopted to sub-divide such large areas into fields of convenient size, and the levy of the half assessment will be in all cases be a sufficient protection for the interests of Government.

10. The settling officers should personally enquire into these remissions and satisfy themselves in every case that the fields have been examined by proper officers and have really lain waste. An individual statement of the remission should also be submitted to the Government for sanction.